

Smooth as glass at Jonathan Saunders



# The pony club

High, low, fat, thin or bouncy, they're all hot on the catwalk, says BELLA BLISSETT and especially at London Fashion Week

By day three of London Fashion Week AW11/12, we had the trend: pony-tails. Backstage at show after show, teams of stylists armed with blowdryers, tongs, sprays and mousses put every spin imaginable on the classic to bring it firmly into this year. We had low ones, bouncy ones, fat ones, skinny ones and two-foot-high ones.

The first drove had a sporty feel stylists were describing as "healthy", "athletic" and with "hints of androgyny". At Jaeger, Sam McKnight added lift to the roots with Pantene Pro-V Sheer Volume Body Boosting

Mousse, then channelled a Seventies vibe with hair drawn straight back off the face and secured on the bone just below the crown of the head. The key to ponies is in the placement. At Jonathan Saunders, Paul Hanson showcased the new nape obsession with a smooth-as-glass pony (Fekkai's Coiff Contrôle Ironless Straightening balm, spacenk.co.uk is a must), stitched onto a wide headband at the base to keep the look super-slick.

Fashion's obsession with the skinny was on show at Christopher Kane, where inch-wide tails trailing down models' backs had a water-like reflective shine courtesy of Tigi Cat-

walk's Sleek Mystique Look-Lock Hairpray (tighaircare.com). If this isn't to your liking, look to Issa and Louise Gray for something big, bushy, and with a frizzled texture probably akin to your hair after a rainy day.

Malcolm Edwards went for a "Sloaney" pony that took the equestrian theme literally. Backstage at Somerset House, bundles of fussed-up hair extensions were packed into the backcombed ponytail for something fat, fluffy and just about achievable for the rest of us, albeit in a scaled-down version.

Stylists love their references, and next season the Eighties or Nineties is a safe bet, from Sloanes to Will Smith in *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. In preparation for the Louise Gray show, Luke Hershenson pinned up pictures of Maggie Thatcher and the Fresh Prince and came up with a hybrid "booytail". High and square-topped at the front, with a waffling, bushy tail at the back, it was perfect for anyone who's bored with their old pony - and incredibly brave.

Which is something you'll need to be should you attempt "The Bend". A new entry in beauty's dictionary, the easy version popped up at House of Holland. Adam Reed pulled hair back to ear height using his fingers (brushes or combs will make your look too neat), secured the pony, then used a Babyliss Pro Conical Wand (babylisspro.co.uk) to tong a bit of a bend (not curl) into the lower lengths of the tail.

On top: Kinder Aggugin on the catwalk



Kinder won best show pony: Malcolm Edwards' towering conical style was straight out of a cartoon, comprising two ponies and a hidden braid drawn together at the top (and a hell of a lot of L'Oréal Professionnel technicart Volume Lift Mousse). Try if you dare - or stick to the cheeky flick that came at the tail's end.

Whichever you choose, tie with a velvet black band or ribbon to get extra style points.



Dutch courage: Henry Holland's House of Holland showcased The Bend

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